

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-72. (Cancelled)

73. (New) A clipping device comprising:

a sheath member to be inserted in the body of the patient;

an actuating wire received in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

a clip unit attached to the clipping device in advance and having a tissue clip for clipping in the body of the patient and a coupling member arranged at a distal end of the actuating wire;

wherein:

the coupling member includes a first end fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire to be immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction and a second end attached to the tissue clip; and

when applying the tissue clip, the second end of the coupling member is deformable upon exertion of a force in a proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member that is greater than a predetermined amount so as to prevent a subsequent attachment of the second end to another tissue clip.

74. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, wherein the first end of the coupling member is directly fastened to a peripheral surface of the distal end of the actuating wire.

75. (New) The clipping device according to claim 74, wherein the first end of the coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by welding.

76. (New) The clipping device according to claim 75, wherein the first end of the

coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by laser welding.

77. (New) The clipping device according to claim 74, wherein the first end of the coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by pressing.

78. (New) The clipping device according to claim 77, wherein the first end of the coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by caulking.

79. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, wherein
the first end of the coupling member includes a hole, and
the first end of the coupling member is attached to the actuating wire by hooking
the actuating wire in the hole.

80. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, wherein
the coupling member including the first end and the second end is a single piece
construction,

the first end of the coupling member permanently set to the actuating wire, and
the second end of the coupling member couples to the tissue clip and is beyond
repair after applying the tissue clip.

81. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, wherein the second end of
the coupling member include a hook in which the tissue clip is hooked.

82. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, further comprising an
operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire to exert the force in the
proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member,

wherein the operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal
end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in a longitudinal direction.

83. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, further comprising:

an insertion tube that is fitted over the sheath member and movable longitudinally relative to the sheath member,

a first operation unit mounted in the area of the proximal end of the insertion tube for longitudinally moving the insertion tube relative to the sheath member, and

a second operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire to exert the force in the proximal direction at the first unit of the coupling member,

wherein the second operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in longitudinal direction.

84. (New) The clipping device according to claim 83, wherein the insertion tube is provided with raised portions at its inner surface and/or its outer surface.

85. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, further comprising a lubricant disposed on an outer surface of the actuating wire.

86. (New) The clipping device according to claim 85, wherein the lubricant disposed on the outer surface of the actuating wire is silicone oil.

87. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, wherein the clipping device is arranged in a packaging unit.

88. (New) The clipping device according to claim 73, further comprising a first operation unit mounted in the area of a proximal end of an insertion tube of an endoscope for longitudinally moving the insertion tube relative to the sheath member, as well as a second operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire to exert the force in the proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member,

wherein the second operation unit is provided with a slider that is coupled to the

proximal end of the actuating wire and is guided so as to be slidable in a longitudinal direction.

89. (New) the clipping device according to claim 79, wherein the actuating wire is turned back in a portion to be hooked in the hole.

90. (New) A clipping device to be used in combination with an endoscope having a channel, the device comprising:

an insertion tube to be inserted in the body of the patient through the channel;

a sheath member to be inserted in the insertion tube so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the insertion tube;

an actuating wire received in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

a clip unit attached to the clipping device in advance and having a tissue clip for clipping in the body of the patient and a coupling member including a first end fastened to a distal end of the actuating wire to be immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction and a second end attached to the tissue clip;

an operation unit for exercising a pulling action on the actuating wire to exert the force in the proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member,

wherein:

when applying the tissue clip, the first end of the coupling member is kept fastened to the actuating wire to be immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction, and the second end of the coupling member is deformable upon exertion of a force in a proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member due to the operation unit so as to prevent a subsequent attachment of the second end to another tissue clip.

91. (New) The clipping device according to claim 90, wherein the first end of the coupling member is directly fastened to a peripheral surface of the distal end of the actuating wire.

92. (New) The clipping device according to claim 91, wherein the first end of the coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by welding.

93. (New) The clipping device according to claim 91, wherein the first end of the coupling member is fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire by pressing.

94. (New) The clipping device according to claim 90, wherein the coupling member including the first end and the second end is a single piece construction,

the first end of the coupling member permanently set to the actuating wire, and the second end of the coupling member couples to the tissue clip and is beyond repair after applying the tissue clip.

95. (New) A method for clipping tissue using a clipping device in combination with an endoscope having a channel, the method comprising:

inserting an insertion tube in the body of the patient through the channel;

inserting a sheath member in the insertion tube so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the insertion tube;

receiving an actuating wire in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

providing a clip unit attached to the clipping unit in advance and having a tissue clip for clipping in the body of the patient;

attaching a first end of a coupling member to a distal end of the actuating wire to

be immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction;

attaching a second end of the coupling member to the tissue clip;

projecting the tissue clip from a distal end of the insertion tube;

pulling on the actuating wire to exert a force in the proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member,

when applying the tissue clip, keeping the first end of the coupling member fastened to the actuating wire to be immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction; and

deforming the second end of the coupling member upon exertion of the force thereby preventing a subsequent attachment of another tissue clip to the coupling member.

96. (New) A tissue clipping method comprising:

inserting a sheath member in a body of a patient;

receiving an actuating wire in the sheath member so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the sheath member;

arranging a clip unit attached to the clipping device in advance and having a tissue clip for clipping in the body of the patient and a coupling member at a distal end of the actuating wire;

making the coupling member, including a first end fastened to the distal end of the actuating wire, immovable in an axial direction of the actuating wire and a direction deviating from the axial direction;

attaching a second end of the coupling member to the tissue clip; and

when applying the tissue clip, deforming the second end of the coupling member

upon exertion of a force in a proximal direction at the first end of the coupling member that is greater than a predetermined amount so as to prevent a subsequent attachment of the second end to another tissue clip.